PCC Plans a More Welcoming Church

Jointly Funded by Husthwaite Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee

Ian Kitchen

Priest in Charge

April 2006

The Church Council would like to bring everyone up to date with plans for various alterations which will take place inside St Nicholas over the next few months and, almost certainly, years. There are two reasons for the work: to meet statutory requirements such as the Disability Discrimination Act and also to make our building more welcoming and flexible in use.

The first stage is to improve the lighting and to install a hearing loop, so that those with hearing aids will be able to share in the services more fully. We are also looking into more effective heating systems, to make worshipping in St Nicholas a much more pleasant experience than it currently is in cold months.

In addition to this, we plan in due course to level out some of the interior steps and to open up the space around the font so that we have a more flexible area for children and small groups. This will mean moving, and probably replacing, the organ. In turn that will allow us to appreciate the very attractive archway under the tower and, we hope, make much better use of the space at the bottom of the tower.

Considerable fund-raising and applications for grants will be necessary for most of this work, and we will be careful how we move forward, but overall it should mean that St Nicholas will be a more pleasant and welcoming place to worship.

I, or other PCC members, would be happy to talk to anyone about the plans. We will keep you all informed on progress.

Clockwise from top left: Anne Dowson - dancer extraordinaire; Rebecca Scarce - Jack who climbed the beanstalk; Callum Watt - the baddy; India Wentworth - the bar lady who bossed the cowboys - and the audience. Photos: Jill Pike

Deadline for your material in the next Newsletter: Sunday 20th May

Show Stoppers

Easingwold Taxis
07763 234080
It came as quite a shock to me when the builders doing the conversion work to our house in the Nookin laughed about the Husthwaite Pantomime. I asked around and found that they were not alone in their amusement. Some of the men in the plays cast were teased in the pub by their painter/decorator and carpenter friends. A man let it be known in the village that no son of mine will be in a pantomime. Inquiring even deeper, I found that the menfolk feared that pantomime was all about wigs.

I'm not a great historian but I believe these attitudes date back centuries. Theatre people have always been mistrusted.

So here's what we do if we have another Husthwaite pantomime. We negotiate with the school authorities and the colleges where young people are doing vocational training - learning to be electricians, carpenters, joiners, painters and decorators, sound and lighting engineers. In *Jack and the Beanstalk* all these jobs were done. They were done to a phenomenally high standard and they were done by a very small number of people. The next Husthwaite pantomime won't have that last problem because we will ship lads (mostly lads, I imagine, though we won't turn lasses down) from the vocational training courses. Our joiner will train a joiner. Each lighting engineer will have a lad with him, learning from the experience. For *Cinderella* and *Jack* we have had a top class professional sound engineer. In the next pantomime he teaches a lad/lass acoustic engineering.

We will scotch once and for all this silly idea that pantomime is for sissies. To build our house E Fox & Son, members of the Federation of Master Builders, a firm who deserve their super reputation for high class standards, have used carpenters, joiners, electricians, plumbers, decorators. What they need for house building we need for putting on the panto.
Mothering Sunday
Ancient Chance to Go Home to Mum
John Ovenston

Mothering Sunday this year fell on 26th March and, as usual, there was a special Mothering Sunday event at 10.30am in St Nicholas Church here in Husthwaite. The day was, of course, a chance for children and young adults to thank their mothers for all they have done and continue to do for them. But it was also a precious opportunity for others of us to remember with gratitude mothers who are no longer here. Mothering Sunday is not to be confused with the American Mothers Day. In England it has a history going back many centuries. It was a day when children, who had left home to work as domestic servants were given the day off to visit their mother and family. Today children give their mothers presents and home-made cards.

Nowadays, churchgoers worship in their nearest parish church. However, such churches were sometimes a daughter church of another larger parish church. For example, St Marys at Carlton Husthwaite was a daughter church of St Nicholas. Each year, on one Sunday in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their mother church. This became the occasion for family reunions it was quite common for children to leave home for work once they were ten years old! It may be that these reunions gave rise to our Mothering ritual. Returning along country lanes would pick flowers to give to their mothers.

Mothering Sunday was also known as Refreshment Sunday because the fast on that day. A traditional food for the day is simnel cake, a fruit cake with two layers of almond paste. The top is decorated with 11 balls of marzipan representing the 11 disciples. Sugar violets might also be added. The name probably comes from the Latin simila, meaning a fine wheat flower usually used for baking a cake. It is also said that a man called Simon and his wife Nell were arguing over whether their Mothering Sunday cake should be baked or boiled. In the end they did both, so the cake was named after the two of them: Sim-Nell!
**Parish Council**

**Use or Lose Our Husthwaite Buses**

Barrie Ward

As you will know from the last Newsletter, North Yorks County Council were reviewing the provision of subsidised bus services through the village. The Parish Council objected in the strongest possible terms to any withdrawal and also wrote to our local MP, Anne McIntosh. I am pleased to be able to say that, following the review, there will be no change in the subsidised services through Husthwaite. Nevertheless, we cannot be complacent. Unless these services get used there remains a chance that future reviews will not go our way. The message is USE IT OR LOSE IT! That was the good news. The bad news is that Smiths have indicated to NYCC that they intend to withdraw the Monday only service to Thirsk. This is a commercially run service but NYCC are considering whether to subsidise it so that it may be retained. If you have any views on this you may comment to the Passenger Transport Group, NYCC, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AH.

**Green Bins Should Reduce Garden Bonfires**

As the summer approaches and gardening gets under way in earnest there will be those amongst us who wish to burn some debris. A bonfire can be a convenient way to get rid of old rubbish but don’t forget that we now have green bins provided by the District Council and that recycling is the order of the day. If you can’t resist or are determined to have a bonfire please follow these guidelines and the chances are you won’t cause offence:

- Only burn dry material
- Never burn household rubbish, rubber tyres, or anything containing plastic, foam or paint.
- Never use old engine oil, meths or petrol to light fire or encourage it.
- Avoid lighting a fire in unsuitable weather conditions smoke hangs in the air on damp, still days and in the evening. If it is windy, smoke may be blown into neighbours gardens and across roads.
- Avoid burning at weekends and on bank holidays when people want to enjoy their gardens.
- Avoid burning when the air quality in your area is poor.

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No Stage Fright in Husthwaite's Night of Local Jokes and Music
Roy Leverton

From the minute the consistently professional Widow Whitehorse (David Pike) burst upon the stage to set the scene for a theatrical presentation with a difference to the matrimonial finale the audience responded enthusiastically to a plot that moved apace. The cast comprising a mix of veterans from two years ago, when Cinderella graced the stage, joined by several newcomers, infected the audience with the fun that they were obviously having.

Connections and covered an age range from infant to the mix where age became immaterial and music and necessity. So littered the script - oh yes they did - but there were original brilliance that demonstrated how much they were. Rebecca Scarce, as Jack, showed a growth in maturity that helped some of her colleagues through the more Barker and

The Staggers were local foils to each other with an almost Morecambe & Wise impact upon those watching. The wonderful group of youngsters that enacted The Lion and Albert sketches, had the audience in their hands. When the mighty giant Charles Wentworth, all one metre of him, crashed through the rear door with his Fee! Fi! Fo! Fum! the audience fell apart.

Newcomer, Alun Nixon, provided a convincing Judge Reynard with a delivery worthy of someone who had never known stage fright. He demonstrated a fine singing voice and some effective cross-dressing when he led the cast in a rendition of Im a Lumberjack. Another first, Callum Watt, carried off his threatening too-nice-to-be-evil role. Kerry Barker was a fierce Mrs Ramsbottom and a delicate Jill - a promising actress indeed.

Another hit were the strippers, ladies of status and respect throughout the village, who shed their clothes with gay abandon, well almost, and in a fashion which suggested that their husbands had much to look forward to in the months to come. We shall all look upon Anne Dowson, Sue Wise, Rose Lawrance and Jill Pike with expectation and awe when we meet from now on!

As an interlude the audience was encouraged to sing Show Me the Way to Go Home, with Rebecca Scarce and the diminutive but dominating and up and coming little star, India Wentworth, leading a competitive musical joust which surprisingly ended in a draw.

Musical Director, Linda Davison, coaxed the very best from all the singers and one of the highlights of the evening was Stuart Marriott who demonstrated a fine singing voice and some effective cross-dressing when he led the cast in a rendition of Im a Lumberjack. Another first, Callum Watt, carried off his threatening too-nice-to-be-evil role. Kerry Barker was a fierce Mrs Ramsbottom and a delicate Jill - a promising actress indeed.

Predictable local jokes littered the script - oh yes they did - but there were humour the overriding necessity.

The open day will run from 1.00pm to 5.00pm, and funds will go towards the Village Hall Committee. The plan is to lead visitors through the village so that they finish up at the Hall, where refreshments will be on sale. Can we ask for volunteers, please, to provide home-made cakes?

History Society Has Details of Husthwaite's Old Houses
Ursula Duncan

Did your house exist as a building or plot before 1841? Would you like to have some historical data about your house?

Husthwaite Local History Society has some carefully researched information about all the houses in Husthwaite from earliest records up to the 1841 census. This has been done by Stuart Marriott and he has generously given the results of his work for us to continue beyond 1841.

If you are interested in continuing the history of your house from 1841 to the present day, Stuart has offered to advise and support a small group of us who want to do this. Let us know.

Schools Project Adds Interest to Open Gardens Day

Pippa Bailey will front the Husthwaite Open Gardens Day on Sunday 18th June. We will have eight gardens on view, Pippa explained to this week’s meeting of the Village Hall Committee. The plan is to lead visitors through the village so that they finish up at the Hall, where refreshments will be on sale. Can we ask for volunteers, please, to provide home-made cakes?

Treasurer of the Friends of Husthwaite School, Vicky Nixon, explained that the school is opening its garden. The pupils will be doing some special project work for the occasion. This will include the design of an orienteering course, which we hope will make the day attractive for children.

The open day will run from 1.00pm to 5.00pm, and funds will go towards the Village Hall Committee renovation work.

As always, volunteers are needed to help put on a big occasion of this kind. Please make yourself known to Pippa on 868629.

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Some people have already requested information about their house from us. If you would like a copy of the data on your house contact me on 868304 or Angela Ovaston 868347. There is no charge.

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Village Hall Committee Dates 2006

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<td>Murder Mystery (Angela 868373)</td>
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<td>18th June</td>
<td>Open Gardens (Pippa 868629)</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>Christmas event (Angela 868373)</td>
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Next Roasted Pepper Quiz Night: Sunday 14th May